VOLUME XXI JANUARY 5, 1959 NUMBER 1

CONSERVATION: FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE MOON

Tamalpais. At the meeting of the State Park Commission in San Francisco on Dec. 19 the whole matter of acquisition to enlarge Tamalpais State Park was thoroughly aired and some cobwebs blown away. Owners of thirty acres around Lone Tree Spring announced that they planned to subdivide it for homes. They explained that it was so long since they had heard from the Department of Beaches and Parks who had once included it in plans for the State Park, that the whole project had presumably collapsed. Sierra Club representatives followed up this statement with some stringent criticism of the Department's apparent willingness to let the best lands slip through their fingers even while money is available for acquisition. The Commission agreed on the need for prompt action, refused to release the land from future condemnation proceedings, ordered the Department to begin negotiations and report at the next meeting. But at year's end a bulldozer was still making access roads to lots on the steep wooded slopes between Pan Toll and Lone Tree Spring.

This section, at the road head just west of Pan Toll, is one the most strategic areas for acquisition. Others are the White Gates ranch land at the end of Steep Ravine trail just above Stinson Beach, and the floor and slopes of Frank Valley near Muir Woods. These are the points where roads, public access, views, etc., make land ideal for subdivisions. We shall sleep more easily when they are safely secured for the State Park.

The missile site on the high ridge of Tamalpais is not an empty threat. Right above the Bernstein trail the Army flew in a pyramid marker by helicopter, took bearings, and flew it out again. They would probably want about 10 acres of the ridge and land around it. We know only too well the blight of wire fencing, devastation and ugliness which follows the Army everywhere, and an additional problem would probably

(Continued on Page 2)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the S. F. Bay Chapter met in the Club Offices on Monday, Dec. 8, to consider items of new and old business pending on the agenda.

Several changes to the Club's By-Laws were discussed by the members. One such change concerns a switch from the present two sponsors required upon application for membership to only one or possibly no sponsors, leaving acceptance of such application solely to the Membership Committee. Also a projected change would cut the waiting time after application for membership from 90 days to 45 days.

Another possible by-law change discussed was that of adding two ex-officio members to the Club's Executive Board to serve as Secretary and Treasurer should none of the regularly elected Board members be qualified to act in these capacities.

A possible change in the Sierra Club annual dues structure was discussed, but no definite conclusion was reached.

Executive Committee member Claudia Owen reported to the group on excellent progress being made with plans for the Annual Sierra Club Dinner and Banquet, to be held in the coming month of May. Various people were suggested as possibilities for the assignment as keynote speaker at this major social and business function of the Club.

Sierra Clubber Betty Klevesahl and all members of her committee were commended highly for their success in staging the very enjoyable Club Christmas Party, held on Saturday, December 6.

The Exec Committee will again hold their monthly meeting on Monday, January 12, under the baton of Chairman Ned Robinson. All interested Club members are cordially invited to participate.

-- EDB

Sierra Club Yodeler

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NEXT DEADLINE: JANUARY 19

VOLUME XXI NO. 1 — January 5, 1959

Conservation — from page 1

be insistence on buildings for housing in Potrero Meadows. The TCC had a nice letter from the commanding officer, in answer to their inquiry, implying willingness to consider other sites, but the Army has been known to write nice letters without changing its plans.

New Congress Much work in Conservation waits for the new Congress. The Wilderness Bill will be our first interest. Here are some others which need attention: The pollution control bill needs strengthening, and is in need of money to make it effective. Control of pesticides, often applied in huge quantities and under government subsidies, needs investigation. The Forest Service will attempt to get its "Operation Outdoors" started (to match the Park Service Mission 66). The Fish and Wildlife Service, in spite of promises, is getting a "Step-child" treatment after reorganization of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave commercial interests much more power and attention. The wild-life withdrawals in Alaska are still marking time, no final action has been taken. New roads are problems both East and West; the New York Forest Reserve would be bisected along nearly its whole length by a proposed Northway route. A lower, much more usable route along the lower slopes beside Lake Champlain would be better in every way but would cost more, the land here being privately owned, whereas the N.Y. Reserve land, being public, gives the illusion of costing nothing. In California, road problems of 1959 will be numerous: Mammoth Pass road; Emerald Bay; logging roads on the Kern plateau; billboard control (we hear the billboards may be larger than ever to compensate for enforced distance from the roads) will be important items in this year's news.

Thought for 1959. The first day of this year marked the first time man has succeeded in throwing a bit of the earth so far away that it is lost forever--Congratulations, but let's take extra care of the rest!

-- CMC

* *

"Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility"

RIVER TOURING SECTION

Happy New Year to you all! It seems rather obsolete to mention our Christmas party at this time, but here goes anyway. We had a good one, good fun, fine food, and much dancing, thanks to Barbara Tilden and Beverly Heywood who were in charge. We saw a lot of old friends there and some new ones, but where were you? There was room for plenty more.

Maryanne Danielson was the only winner of the slalom who was present to receive her plaque for placing first in the woman's race.

How are you boat builders coming along? I've heard you have all the materials on hand, but not that any one has yet completed his or her boat! This is the time of year to concentrate on this activity and be all set to start out with us in March or perhaps in April. More power to you all! -- Elinore M. Ridge

YOSEMITE — SEASON OF 1915

While going through some old books and papers stored in the attic, I came across a paper bound booklet entitled "The Yosemite Tourist--Season of 1915". This brochure had been saved from an early visit to our great California park by my late mother and father-in-law. It is a simple booklet with early day photos of the still beautiful vistas of the valley floor, and filled with quaint items of interest and the names of visitors to the four camps then in existence in the Park.

Edited and published by D.J. and E.E. Foley at the Yosemite Falls Studio, the articles abound with early folklore and humor such as excerpts of visitor's comments taken from the "Great Register" a public book kept at the office of the guardian of the Valley; for example, a visitor from Oakland notes "The only place the California promoter has not exaggerated", and truthfully followed by "Nor appreciated" by another gentleman from the same city. Humor is found in this remark, "My wife rode to Glacier Point and back yesterday, and she is so sore that she cannot register". In this same "Great Register" a man from San Francisco who identifies himself as a member of the Sierra Club made these suggestions: "Dustless roads in the Valley, and drinking water for man and beasts at main stopping points on the trails would make this an earthly paradise" -- little did that writer know to what extremes the "dustless roads" would be improved!

The book is a fund of interesting and informative short items pertaining to life in early day Yosemite; "When Yosemite Points Were Named", and "The Love Story of the Lost Arrow", just to mention a couple of titles. How glad I am that this little booklet was saved from the waste basket so long ago.

-- Sue Higman, in the January
Condor Call, Los Padres Chapter Newspape

CORRECTION TO HIKE INSTRUCTIONS

Correction and amplication of Sierra Club Schedule instructions for the hike of January 24 are as follows: "Hike to see early blossoms on the Huckleberry trail. Drive to the junction of Skyline Blvd., Park Blvd., Manzanita Drive, and the turn-off to the town of Canyon, by 9:30 a.m. Call either leader if you are confused on how to get to the starting place."

-- Margaret Gwinn

A FINE TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

Walt Oppenheimer reports that 233 people attended the annual Sierra Club Christmas Party held on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the East Bay Women's Club in Oakland. All expenses were amply covered, and there is a surplus of $71.09 which will be turned over to the Executive Committee. We planned our budget very closely, so all the credit for the profit goes to the liquid and solid refreshment committees. According to George Baldwin, 6-1/2 gallons of non-spiked punch were consumed, making the average rate per person approximately .85 ounce per hour. As for the spiked punch, Jim McCracken reports that 12 gallons slid down -- at the average rate per person of 1.7 ounce per hour. (no allowance was made in either case for dilution by melting ice.) Betty Christeler did not figure out the amount of food per person; as far as I could see no one went away hungry and the 48 dozen sandwiches, 50 dozen cookies, and 12 lb. of fruitcake were delicious.

The beautiful Christmas tree at the entrance was obtained through the courtesy of Clair Tappaan Lodge; it was afterwards used by the East Bay dinner group for their Christmas party; and then it was sold for the costs connected with transporting it. Part of the decorations for the tree were donated to the Sierra Club by Dick Monges, and the remainder was purchased by the decorating committee. All the decorations will be available for future use and Dick Monges has agreed to take care of them.

I think Herb Sabel did a fine job of announcing the program for the evening. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the folk dancing, and the response to both the "pepper uppers", led by Ivan Tarnowsky, and to the Christmas singing, led by Warren Swing, and accompanied on the piano by Dorothy Knowlton, was great--but then with such a wonderful responsive group of people, it is such fun to have a party!

-- Betty Klevesahl

DRAKES

A cooperative tide swept Drake's Beach clean for our hike on Sunday, Dec. 5th, with Ken McCready, and left such goodies for beachcombers as driftwood and the fossilized bone that erodes from the Miocene deposits in the cliffs behind the beach. The wind did not do so well for us, being downright cold.

In spite of a chilly and cloudy day, over a hundred people were assembled, to start the affair with a short talk by Bob Allen, representing the Drake Navigators' Guild, that dedicated group which investigates all clues as to Drake's 36 day stay in this area in 1579.

The hike was short, being necessarily confined to the beach. Afterward we visited the RCA trans-Pacific receiving station, where a large battery of receivers goes quietly about the job of receiving the radio messages from points west and turning them into the familiar cablegrams.

-- Ethel Unselt

MOUNTAINEARS HEAR

If you're participating in either the "junior" (North American) Olympic Games next month, or the "real thing" next year, be comforted in the knowledge that if you're injured you have a triple chance of being rescued by Sierra Clubbers. Don Huber has been assigned as an assistant chief of patrol; Mrs. Jerry Colburn and Randy May will be patrolmen. In their rescue duties on the mountain slopes the patrol members will use Akias, Austrian motorized snow vehicles. They will learn how to operate the Akias during the first three days of their training session. Don, who already knows how, is looking forward to learning how anyone can teach this skill in just three days.

We expect Dr. H. Stewart Kimball, SC Director and Outings Chairman, to be extra sympathetic toward any future patients with ski injuries after what happened to him New Year's Eve. Not content with sitting around the fire at Echo Lake Lodge, quaffing ale or something, he was out in the dark, where the snow lay thin. He picked up speed on a gentle slope--and all of a sudden there was a steep drop-off. His ankle didn't keep in line with the rest of the foot. Anyway it was a clean break. He was carried out by stretcher and is now convalescing at home in Orinda.

Fred Sandrock, who wanted to try out some Austrian ski slopes, but who settled for Alta, Utah, as the next best thing, wrote to the Yodeler: "The deep dry powder is wonderful and we have a whole week of it." He also saw Sierra Clubbers Art and Virginia Benson, Hy Diamond, Paul Russell, Julius Siddon, Bob Hackamack, Greg McGibbon and Red Young there.

Roy A. Spring wants everyone to know he married Millie Douglass in Las Vegas November 9. Their new address is 13031 Yuma Place, Westminster, California.

Vivian Schagen asks how to get to Wagner Trailer Park, which was advertised in the November 17 Yodeler. All the ad said was: "7 miles east of DHS on Dillon Road, then right on Bennett Road." This column isn't trying to give Wagner Trailer Park free advertising. We just want to keep our readers happy. So if anyone knows anything more about the location of Wagner Trailer Park, please drop Vivian a line: Mrs. John Schagen, 3032 Divisadero Street, San Francisco. --AR

YODELER DRIVING HINTS

Ever been caught in a virtual standstill of traffic backed up, as you approach the Bay Bridge from the Freeway in SF? Try this: Watch well ahead, and if there is a traffic jam, get over to the right fast, take the First St. off-ramp, turn left, one block later turn left again, and you'll be on an on-ramp. When you get to the bridge you will have bypassed all the funnelling into a bottleneck effect of the other approaches, and usually you will find the traffic moving.

CTL NEWS

Happy New Year and thanks for the snow!! Signal Hill operated from Sunday, the 28th, through the 4th of January. The snow was rather thin in spots, in fact Darrell Southwell became known as a "Hart"-breaker over the holidays. All the resorts were operating though not all runs were open.

The lodge now has two ski instructors -- Jackie Volz and Roger Paris were married the 3rd of December. Jackie is teaching beginners and Roger teaches the intermediate and advanced.

The annual New Year's Eve Party was a great success. The dramatic fare of the evening was provided by Hazel and Keith Lummis--it should win the Pulitzer Playwright's Prize !

Back to snow conditions -- the weather remained quite cool -- below freezing - so the snow did not melt but became hard-packed and as we are about to leave tonight, another storm seems to be gathering. Therefore, get your reservations in for the lodge and bus. It looks to be a good year!!

One sad note to the holiday festivities was that Bernie Blum, the intrepid auctioneer, came down with a bad case of pneumonia -- get well soon, Bernie!

-- Roberta Codis

MORE CTL NEWS

Reservations are now being taken for the 3-day Washington's Birthday holiday weekend, February 20-23. The minimum reservation is 3 days, $13.50, for members. Round-trip bus fare will be $6.50. This is more than usual because the bus and driver are tied up for the extra day.

The chartered bus is now running. It leaves the New Mint at Duboce and Market in S. F. at 6:15 (the chapter schedule says 6:45 but that's wrong), stops in Berkeley at the University Avenue SP Depot, and then is off for the mountains. The round trip fare is $6 and you don't have to put on chains or dig out a parking space.

Roberta Codis wants help in gathering news for her column. It's an SOS, Mayday, and plea for help. Contact her at 500 Parnassus, San Francisco 22, before January 31.

FOR SALE

Swiss ski boots, size 4-1/2B, fit ladies' shoe 6-1/2 -7, almost new, $15. Tailored ski pants, size 14, almost new, $15. Also women's western riding boots, almost new, $10. Helen Pierson, 808 Leavenworth, S. F.; GRaystone 4-6680 evenings, PRospect 6-8045 days.

Hand knit Norwegian ski sweater, size 16. Jane Southwell, DIamond 2-2504.

1959 N. AMERICAN SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

California-Nevada Ski Club President Bill Briner wants volunteer officials to serve during the 1959 North American Ski Championships at Squaw Valley, February 21 through March 3.

They are responsible for recruiting and training sufficient qualified personnel to stage the 1959 event and the VIII Olympic Winter Games ski events in 1960. Briner estimates 400 skiers will be needed in February 1959 as gatekeepers, course police, timers, recorders and course packers--and as many as 700 needed in 1960.

Gatekeeper, course police, and course packer applicants should be men over 18 and members of the National Ski Association or one of its divisions. Some women will be needed as secretaries.

Eight-hour certification courses are now being arranged in the LA, SF, and Reno areas, and elsewhere throughout the FWSA. Two on-the-snow clinics will be conducted by Willy Schaeffler, Director of Ski Events, Olympic Winter Games, at Squaw Valley, on January 18 and February 8. Volunteers at either of these clinics will be eligible as officials in the North American Ski Championships during which their abilities will be carefully evaluated for the 1960 Games.

Volunteers working in the 1959 North American Ski Championships and 1960 Winter Games will get free admission, meals, and lift privileges. If interested, send your name, address, and phone number to Robert Seach, Personnel Director, Olympic Organizing Committee, 70 West Taylor Street, Reno Nevada.

-- Organizing Committee
VIII Olympic Winter Games

YOUR FIRST TIME ON SNOWSHOES?

is the title of a very well done mimeographed write-up we have received from the Snowshoe Section of the Bay Chapter. We don't have space to print it, but if you'd rather walk on snow than slide on it, write in for it. Meanwhile, remember the Snowshoe Section's warning: Skiers have the right of way!

IMPORTANT SCHEDULE CHANGE: FEBRUARY 20-22

If you are going on the Ludlow Hut snowshoe trip, phone the leaders, Barbara Tilden and Donna Harvey immediately to make your reservations, as the trip was half filled by January 5th.

Write to Applegate Motel, Highway 40, Applegate, California, immediately to make your reservation for Friday night, February 20, as you will not be staying at CTL that night.

ROCK CLIMBING

The somewhat cold morning of November 29 found a somewhat assorted gathering of some fifty-odd (meaning more than 50) rock climbers anxious to enjoy two days of ascending, descending, and traversing the somewhat varied routes on the assorted pinnacles of Pinnacles National Monument. Inspired by the prospect of sun in the High Peaks area, parties set out post-haste to make the most of this brief respite from the "Green Christmas" season which managed to arrive this year before people even began to think of waxing their skiis. During the day, people could be seen on face and in chimney making the most of their available energy and making manifest the precarious position man has in life. Toward dinner time the climbers began to filter back through the caves to the cars bringing tales of numerous accomplishments during the day and plans of ascending on Sunday those climbs which had somehow been overlooked. After a sufficient amount of time for nourishment the makings of the traditional Pinnacles camp fire were gathered; namely, approximately 25 tires, one gallon of gasoline, and a match. Thus provided with light and heat the some 50 odd (see above clarification) voices joined with 2 guitars and a mandolin in singing all manner of folk songs. Late, late, when all available folk material had been expended as well as all available tires, the climbers turned songsters, turned sleepers. Sunday followed Saturday and again the routes were proportionately populated. Again the climbers returned with more tales and more plans for the next trip. As traditional as the tire fire was the fact that everyone completely enjoyed themselves, which to this writer is a more plausible answer to the traditional question than "Because it is there."

-- Joe Fletcher

But I thought you meant water skiing!

SAN FRANCISCO AS IT WILL BE SEEN FROM THE NEW FREEWAYS

"Compromise" is being suggested by the outdoor advertising industry, as the Board of Supervisors approaches a decision as to whether billboards shall or shall not be permitted near the new Embarcadero Freeways and other elevated freeways not yet completed.

Sensing public resentment, the billboard industry proposes to be slightly less destructive of the view from the Embarcadero Freeway (a panoramic view of breath-taking beauty). Their offer is to refrain from erecting billboards that will actually block out the skyline, but they ask for locations where their displays would face the freeway on low roofs and against blank walls.

The panoramic view of San Francisco and environs from the Embarcadero Freeway is nothing short of spectacular. It is perhaps the most impressive and exciting outlook over a city that can be found anywhere in the world. Our first consideration must certainly be to preserve every aspect of its beauty and interest.

One of the locations requested for an advertising site is on Broadway between Front and Sansome, described as "not affecting the view of bay or sky but standing out against the base of Telegraph Hill." We contend that Telegraph Hill is more picturesque if it does not rise out of a billboard base.

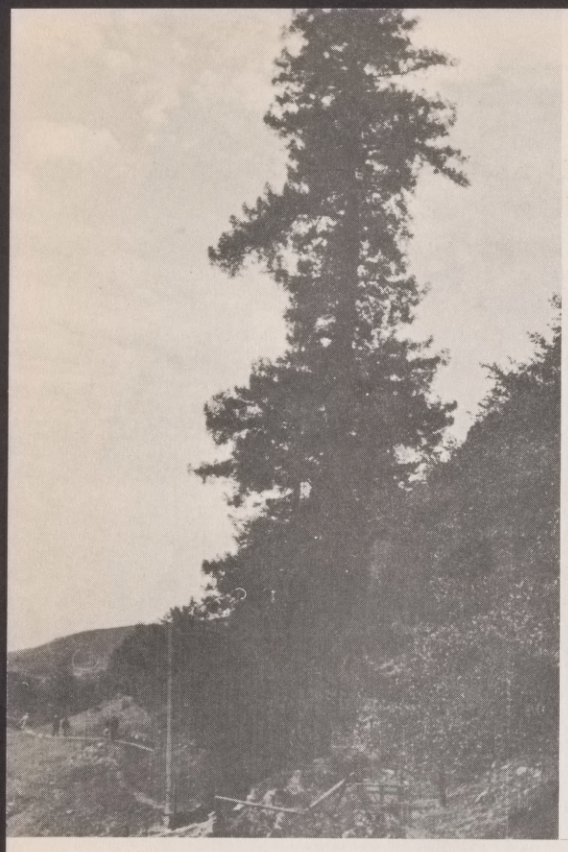
In the San Francisco skyline view we have a civic asset which any other city would pay millions to possess. New York, Chicago, and other great cities have realized the value of such assets and have not fallen for the "compromise" plea. LA, Oakland, and a score of other California cities have ruled "No billboards that are designed primarily to be viewed from any freeway" -- without any exceptions. Is San Francisco to be the only city to be so short-sighted as to sacrifice her greatest natural advantage?

TEN MEN AGAINST MAKALU

Now that snow is falling in the Sierras, get into the proper mood by coming to the January 14th East Bay Dinner where Dr. Will Siri of U. C. and lately of the South Pole, will present the movie, "Ten Men Against Makalu", with his commentaries. This exciting chronicle of climbing in the Himalayas -- all for the sake of science! -- will increase your admiration for our climbing scientist and Nepalese sherpas who accompanied and aided them.

Gather at Willard Junior High School, Telegraph Avenue and Ward Street, Berkeley, at 5:30 for conversation. Dinner at 6:30 p. m. will be followed by the program. For dinner reservations and additional information, call Marjorie Borland, at THornwall 3-8428 before 10 p. m. January 12th.

-- Marjorie Lewis



Lone Pine Spring, well-known Marin County landmark, may soon be lost to real estate subdivision. See Conservation Page 1.
Photo by Robert A. Owen, of Orinda, Calif.

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